CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
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HOW TO BEAT TOM BRADY
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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Highmark, Penn State Health join forces

Hershey Medical Center assumes role as hub

By Steve Twedt
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Highmark Health and Penn State Health — Central Pennsylvania's major health system that includes Hershey Medical Center — are joining forces.

Late Friday afternoon at a special meeting, Penn State trustees voted unanimously to approve a partnership that will give Highmark Health a minority role on the health system's board. The non-exclusive agreement allows Penn State Health to seek contracts with other insurers and Highmark to contract with other providers.

Pittsburgh-based Highmark, whose board members had approved the partnership several days earlier, will be able to designate three members to serve on the Penn State Health board, with Penn State naming 12 directors.

With the deal — nine months in the making — Highmark Health now takes a major role as a health care provider, as well as insurer, in Central Pennsylvania at the same time that its Pittsburgh rival UPMC has been expanding into the center of the state.

In addition to the flagship, 551-bed Hershey Medical Center, Penn State Health includes Penn State Children's Hospital, Penn State College of Medicine, St. Joseph Medical Center in Berks County, Penn State Cancer Institute and

SEE **HIGHMARK**, PAGE A-4

Judge halts rules to limit free birth control

Pa. AG had sued over Trump policy

By Andrew Goldstein and Liz Navratil
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A federal judge in Philadelphia, acting on a lawsuit filed by Pennsylvania, on Friday ordered the Trump administration not to enforce rules that could significantly reduce women's access to free birth control.

U.S. District Judge Wendy Beetlestone issued the injunction, temporarily stopping the government from enforcing the policy change to former President Barack Obama's health care law.

"Congress hasn't changed the law, so the president can't simply ignore the law with these illegal rules," Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said at a news conference Friday evening in Harrisburg. "We are very pleased that we won the first battle in our fight today, and I look forward to the next step. The administration's new rules, concocted without public notice, and really with no meaningful input from doctors with regard to medicine, are unlawful."

The health care law required most companies to cover birth control at no additional cost, though it included exemptions for religious organizations and some private companies.

The Trump policy would allow more categories of employers, including publicly traded companies, to opt out of providing free contraception to

SEE **JUDGE**, PAGE A-4

LET THERE BE (LASER) LIGHT

Nate Guidry/Post-Gazette

Several hundred people gathered in Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church for the first of two Christmas laser light shows Friday created by George Dodsworth, president of Lightwave International and a member of the church. All funds donated at this 12th annual show go directly to helping people in the community.

KQV plans to sign off for good at end of year

By Gary Rotstein
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

No more imploring to "Give us 22 minutes, we'll give you the world." No more looking ahead to "traffic and weather on the 8's."

KQV at 1410 on your AM dial — with a broadcasting history that dates back nearly 100 years, the last 42 of them with a rare all-news format — is preparing to go off the air at year's end.

Robert W. Dickey Jr., the station manager whose family has owned or co-owned the station since 1982, delivered that news Friday morning to most of his 20 employees gathered in the KQV office at Centre City Tower, Downtown.

The station made no immediate on-air announcement and doesn't plan any until Dec. 31, Mr. Dickey said. He calls the plan a "suspension" of broadcasting, allowing for

SEE **KQV**, PAGE A-4

DA blasts Penn State's oversight of hazing by fraternities

Releases details of 10-month inquiry

By Bill Schackner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Centre County's district attorney, armed with a new grand jury report on drinking, hazing and Greek life at Penn State University, delivered a scathing assessment Friday regarding university oversight of a system that in February saw the death of Timothy Piazza.

Stacy Parks Miller detailed results of the grand jury's 10-month investigation at a morning news conference. She suggested the horrifying events inside the Beta Theta Pi house that led to the death of Mr. Piazza, 19, a sophomore pledge, should not have been a surprise given other incidents at Penn State fraternities in recent years.

She called self-policing by fraternities "a joke and a catastrophe" and said that "Penn State either did not know, did not care to know or turned a blind eye" to fight clubs, binge drinking and various "sadistic" initiation rituals over the years at other fraternities that were uncovered by the grand jury investigation.

The resulting 236-page report offered varied recommendations, including that the state Legislature toughen the law for hazing, which is now a misdemeanor, but should be as severe as a first-degree felony when it leads to a death.

It also said all university employees should become mandatory reporters of hazing.

In a 70-page response to the grand jury document, Penn State disputed characterizations that it was aware of drinking problems on campus and did not try to address them. It alluded to recent efforts to tighten controls on drinking and other behaviors, penalize fraternities and overhaul policies.

The university, through its law firm Duane Morris, said it "has made extraordinary efforts, and shown an unwavering commitment to promoting safety and accountability and

SEE **REPORT**, PAGE A-4

Trump assails FBI leadership, touts loyalty to police officers

By Jonathan Lemire and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — Taking aim at the credibility of the FBI, President Donald Trump on Friday unleashed a blistering attack on the bureau's leadership even as he praised state and local police officers as a bulwark against rising violence and crime.

Mr. Trump denounced the bureau for its handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, calling it "really disgraceful," and continued his questioning of his country's intelligence and law enforcement institutions as no president before.

"It's a shame what's happened with the FBI," the president said. "We're going to rebuild the FBI, it'll be bigger and better than ever, but it is very sad when you look at those documents, and how they've done that is really, really disgraceful, and you have a lot of very angry people that are seeing it."

The president's broadside appeared to reflect his anger over revelations that two senior FBI officials exchanged anti-Trump and pro-Hillary Clinton text messages while working on last year's Clinton probe and during special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether Trump associates

SEE **TRUMP**, PAGE A-5

Andrew Rush/Post-Gazette

SANTA HELPER Emily Hughes, 5, hands a large teddy bear to a family in a car as her mother, Jennifer, watches during the Toys for Tots program Friday in West Mifflin. See Goodfellows story, **Page B-1**.

Weather
Morning snow, not as cold. Daytime high, 42; tonight's low, 27.
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Online this weekend
Explore old stories and photos from Pittsburgh's past on The Digs: **post-gazette.com/thedigs**

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BBF can not thank the people of the Greater Pittsburgh Area enough for their boundless generosity and compassion in the wake of this years many natural disasters. As BBF turns 60, we look forward to making tomorrow even better, side by side with you!

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